



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

April 2007  
EPA530-F-07-014  
[www.epa.gov/osw](http://www.epa.gov/osw)

## **Report Shows Priority Chemical Use Down**

### **Action**

The Environmental Protection Agency has released its National Priority Chemicals Trends Report. The report shows that, since 2001, the quantity of priority chemicals in waste has decreased by 2.6 percent, with more than half of the 24 priority chemicals showing decreases. Priority chemicals are chemicals that are persistent, highly toxic, and can accumulate in living organisms.

The Trends Report is used to track EPA's progress toward its goal to reduce the presence of priority chemicals in waste by 10 percent by 2008, and to analyze the trends seen in managing 24 priority chemicals over a five-year period. The report analyzes 24 of the 31 priority chemicals found in industrial waste, using data reported between 2000 and 2004 to the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). TRI is a publicly available database with information on the use, release, and management of more than 650 toxic chemicals within industrial and federal facilities.

The report assists EPA in identifying opportunities for eliminating or reducing priority chemicals and assessing chemical reduction priorities. EPA's National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP) also uses the Trends Report to promote priority chemical reduction by encouraging industrial and federal facilities to voluntarily reduce the use of these priority chemicals in products and waste.

### **For More Information**

For a complete listing of findings and an electronic version of the National Priority Chemicals Trends Report, please visit us on the web at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/trends.htm>.